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ABSTRACT

This progress report, presented at the UNESCO General Conference seventeenth session, outlines the main activities undertaken in the establishment of an international university since the sixteenth session of the General Conference. A listing of eleven activities undertaken is presented in addition to the decision adopted by the Executive Board. This decision on the establishment of an international university is based on the report of the U.N. Panel of experts and the Director General's proposals. Annexes include the decision of the executive board of UNESCO October 18, 1971; the resolution adopted by the general assembly; and a report of the third session of the panel of experts on the establishment of an international university. (MJM)

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Item 13.3 of the Provisional Agenda

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY -
PROGRESS REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUMMARY

The document outlines the main activities undertaken in this connexion since the sixteenth session of the General Conference and, in accordance with paragraph 15 of decision 4.2.1 adopted by the Executive Board at its 89th session, describes the latest position in the matter.

Action required: paragraph 15.

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Activities undertaken since the sixteenth session of the General Conference

1. In paragraph 3 of resolution 1.242, adopted at its sixteenth session, the General Conference invited the Director-General to undertake a feasibility study concerning the establishment of an International University, in the event of the General Assembly of the United Nations approving the General Conference's recommendation on this subject. The General Assembly having approved that recommendation in its resolution 2691 (XXV), the Director-General undertook a feasibility study, the results of which were submitted to the Executive Board at its 88th session in October 1971.
2. The feasibility study was prepared by the Secretariat during the first half of 1971, with the help of a number of consultants, and advice from two meetings of experts and from a number of working groups composed of university people. Two documents were thus produced: a detailed working paper (ED/WS/257), and an official document submitted to the Executive Board and entitled "Report and Comments of the Director-General on the Results of the Feasibility Study Concerning the International University" (88 EX/6). It should be noted that in addition to the \$30,000 appropriated for this purpose in the Approved Programme and Budget for 1971-1972 (paragraphs 1378-1380), the Secretariat had at its disposal for the preparation of the feasibility study voluntary contributions from a number of Member States, namely: Austria, Colombia, India, Japan and Senegal.
3. Having studied in detail the documents submitted to it, the Executive Board adopted, at its 88th session, decision 4.1.3 (see Annex I). While commending "the proposal to establish an International University under the auspices of the United Nations which will deal with the urgent problems of our time and questions of global importance, and which should have as a first task the programming and co-ordination of research and studies related to these problems" (paragraph 5 of the decision), the Board stressed "the need for further examination of a number of problems affecting the project" (paragraph 6). Moreover, the Board reaffirmed "that Unesco has primary competence and responsibility in the development of this project" (paragraph 7).
4. That decision of the Executive Board, together with document 88 EX/6 and a note from the Chairman of the Executive Board on the Board's discussion concerning the project at its 88th session, was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly as an annex to the Report by the Secretary-General on that question (documents A/3510 and A/3510/Add.1/Rev.1). The latter document also contained recommendations by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and, in particular, the report by a Panel of Experts set up to study the question by the Secretary-General himself, in pursuance of resolution 2691 (XXV) of the General Assembly.
5. These documents were studied first by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its 51st session in November 1971 and were then submitted to the XXVth session of the General Assembly which adopted resolution 2822 (XXVI) on that subject (see Annex II). In paragraph 3 of that resolution, the General Assembly recommended that the membership of the Panel of Experts set up to study the establishment of an International University should be increased, so as to allow for the nomination of five additional experts by the Director-General of Unesco, in consultation with the Secretary-General and interested agencies and programmes. The said Panel of Experts has thus in fact become a body common to the United Nations and Unesco, and the studies and other activities previously undertaken by each organization separately - although in close co-operation - will now be undertaken jointly.
6. Having been increased to include the five experts which the Director-General had selected from among university people belonging to various disciplines and regions, the Panel of Experts met at Unesco Headquarters from 5 to 8 April 1972. On that occasion, it studied the working papers prepared jointly by the Secretariats of Unesco and of the United Nations, concerning the main problems still to be discussed, as defined by the Executive Board (see Annex I, paragraph 6). At the end of the meeting, the Panel of Experts, following speeches by the Director-General of Unesco and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, adopted a detailed report (see Annex III).
7. This report, with comments and proposals by the Director-General, was then submitted to the Executive Board at its 89th session (document 89 EX/10). After lengthy discussion, the Executive Board adopted decision 4.2.1, which reads as follows:

4.2 Education

4.2.1 Establishment of an International University: Report of the United Nations Panel of Experts and the Director-General's proposals in this connexion (89 EX/10 and 89 EX/24, Part II)

The Executive Board,

I

1. Recalling resolution 1.242 of the sixteenth session of the General Conference, particularly paragraphs 2, 3 and 4,
2. Recalling decision 4.1.3 taken at the 88th session of the Executive Board, in which paragraph 5 "commends the proposal to establish an International University under the auspices of the United Nations ..." and paragraph 6 calls attention to the need for further examination of a number of problems affecting the project,
3. Recalling also resolution 2822 (XXVI) of the General Assembly, particularly paragraph 4 by virtue of which the Executive Board of Unesco is invited to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session such further observations and recommendations on the subject as it may consider appropriate, and paragraph 7 by which the General Conference of Unesco is invited at its seventeenth session to submit to the General Assembly at its XXVIIth session such comments and observations on the subject as it may consider appropriate,
4. Having examined document 89 EX/10 and Annexes, the fourth of which, the Report of the Panel of Experts on their third session (5-6 April 1972), is of basic importance for the implementation of this project,
5. Notes that this document provides a report of satisfactory progress in the development of the project since its 88th session;
6. Expresses its appreciation to the Director-General for having proceeded to a wide consultation with universities, research institutions, national academies, non-governmental youth organizations and National Commissions, in accordance with paragraph 6 (e) of decision 4.1.3;
7. Reaffirms decision 4.1.3 taken by the Executive Board at its 88th session, paragraph 5 of which "commends the proposal to establish an International University under the auspices of the United Nations ...";
8. Reiterates its affirmation that Unesco has primary competence and responsibility in the development and implementation of this project;

II

9. Expresses its agreement with the following conclusions, that:
 - (a) it is both desirable and opportune to establish an International University;
 - (b) the studies and reports already completed, and resolutions and decisions taken by various bodies of the United Nations system, provide a sufficient basis to enable the General Conference and the General Assembly to reach a decision before the end of the year regarding the establishment of the University and to take initial steps in launching this project, in particular those specified by the Panel of Experts; and that the questions which require further investigation as indicated in their Report, could be dealt with progressively as the University is established;
 - (c) in the planning of the University it is essential to observe the following principles:
 - (i) the concept of the University should be that of a system of academic institutions and not of an intergovernmental organization;

- (ii) close co-ordination should be maintained between the activities of Unesco and those of the University;
- (iii) binding guarantees under law of academic freedom and autonomy should be written into the Charter of the University;
- (iv) selection procedures should be established, so as to ensure the highest intellectual and moral quality of the personnel of the University;
- (v) the structure of the University should consist of a programming and co-ordinating central organ and a decentralized system of affiliated institutions, integrated into the world university community, devoted to:

research into the pressing problems of human survival and human welfare that are the concern of the United Nations and its agencies; and

the post-graduate training of young scholars and research workers;
- (vi) programmes of research in the institutions of the University could in addition to those enumerated under paragraph 4 (a) of the Report of the Panel of Experts, be expanded to include among others:
 - (a) basic scientific research on selected problems of pressing concern to mankind;
 - (b) the human and social aspects of the application of science and technology to development;
 - (c) the effective application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
 - (d) studies and reflections on human and universal values bearing upon the enrichment of the quality of life for all people;

10. Recommends that, in the event that the United Nations General Assembly should decide to establish the University:

- (i) Unesco be designated to assume responsibility for the implementation of the project;
- (ii) a preparatory committee be set up by the Secretary-General and the Director-General in consultation with concerned agencies, whose specific task would be to prepare a draft charter of the University;
- (iii) the Director-General be invited to submit the draft charter with his observations to the Executive Board at an appropriate time for its examination;
- (iv) the Director-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies and programmes concerned and in consultation with the academic community through National Commissions and appropriate non-governmental organizations associated with Unesco, be authorized to take the necessary measures for the establishment of the University by stages;

III

- 11. Firmly believes that adequate and continuous financial endowment is essential for the safeguard of the autonomy of the University, its academic freedom and its normal operation;
- 12. Expresses the view that such endowment should be of an international character and based on contributions from the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, governments of Member States of the United Nations or the Specialized Agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, including foundations and universities and individuals;

13. Notes with satisfaction that as indicated by the Panel in its Report and as the Executive Board learnt at its 89th session, several governments had offered to act as host and give support and/or facilities to institutes of the University;
14. Invites the Director-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General, to use every endeavour to encourage such contributions and offers;

IV

15. Invites the Director-General to transmit this decision to the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council; and to submit a report to the General Conference at its seventeenth session on the latest position in the matter which will take account of the results of the consultation with the academic community and with youth.

(89 EX/SR.11)

II

Results of consultations with the university community

8. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the decision adopted by the Executive Board at its 88th session, the Secretariat proceeded to hold consultations with the institutions and bodies concerned: universities, research institutes and organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations - including youth organizations - submitting to these bodies for comment a number of basic documents recently produced concerning the establishment of an International University.* The National Commissions themselves were invited during the consultations to support the survey and, where necessary, to give their views.

9. In addition to the National Commissions, over a thousand bodies were consulted, over half of which were universities. Through the intervention of the International Association of Universities (IAU), the Secretariat was able to dispatch the documents to all the universities belonging to IAU. The following tables show the number of replies received by 20 August 1972:

TABLE I

NUMBER OF REPLIES RECEIVED BY 20 SEPTEMBER 1972

Region	Universities	Research institutes	NGO	IGO	Total
Europe	27	18	30	8	83
North America	14	11	4	1	30
Asia	12	9	-	4	25
Latin America	6	3	3	1	13
Africa	2	1	-	-	3
Arab States	3	-	-	-	3
Total	64	42	37	14	157

- * I. Report by the Director-General of Unesco on the results of the feasibility study concerning the International University.
 II. Decision adopted by the Executive Board of Unesco on 18 October 1971 (88 EX/Decisions, 4.1.3).
 III. Report by the Panel of Experts set up by the United Nations to study the establishment of an International University.
 IV. Resolution 2822 (XXV) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 18 December 1971.

TABLE II
ANALYSIS OF REPLIES RECEIVED BY 20 SEPTEMBER

U = Universities
O = Others

Region	For		For with reservations		Against		MODS.		Total
	U	O	U	O	U	O	U	O	
Europe	17	36	1	3	5	8	-	3	73
North America	11	7	1	2	-	2	2	-	25
Asia	7	10	-	-	-	1	1	1	20
Latin America	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Africa	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Arab States	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Total	45	60	2	6	5	11	4	4	137*

10. The proportion of replies received in relation to the number of questionnaires dispatched seems somewhat low (about 13.7%). However, this proportion is not noticeably lower than that of the replies received during other consultations (for example, questionnaires addressed to governments on the subject of the brain drain were answered in only 12% to 15% of the cases; yet the central bodies in that instance were better equipped to reply to questionnaires than educational or scientific institutions, and were more willing to do so). Nevertheless the small proportion of replies does show that the idea of an International University has not succeeded in attracting the attention of a sufficient number of research workers and university people and that for the moment the project seems to arouse interest and reactions only on the part of those who are already more or less involved in some international activity, or who have learnt of the project from sources other than the questionnaires. It would probably be only during the implementation of the project - supposing that it were approved by the General Assembly - that active interest in the new institution would in fact be aroused in university circles.

11. Considered in terms of their content, the replies may be divided up as follows:

- (a) Out of the 157 bodies which replied (of which 64 were universities), 105 (of which 45 were university establishments), i.e. approximately two-thirds, were clearly in favour of the new institution. As well as the universities, the bodies in favour of the project included research institutes. The interest shown by these institutes in the project seems easy to explain. For although, from the educational point of view, the International University appears, according to the various feasibility studies, to be of a type to which the universities are not much accustomed (exclusively training of a post-university type), the research programmes suggested in the documents are based on concepts which research institutes know well and approve of. There are few bodies openly opposed to the establishment of an International University: 16 in all, of which 5 are universities. Lastly, about 15 universities are still hesitant and have asked questions or expressed doubts, although these do not imply that they are necessarily against the project.

* Twenty replies indicated that the organizations consulted were unable to comment.

- (b) The proportion of replies per region is not significant, since it corresponds more or less to the number of bodies contacted in each region. However, in so far as the fairly small amount of data makes it possible to draw conclusions, it would seem from the figures that the number of replies in favour is proportionately higher in the developing regions than in the industrialized regions.
12. The list of the institutions which have answered, together with their replies, can be made available to delegates by the Secretariat. It should be noted that the institutions in favour include institutes or universities of high international standing. Furthermore, in some industrialized countries, well-known figures in university circles and institutions have been in favour of the project, whereas the central bodies have adopted a different position.
13. The youth organizations which were consulted, and several of which have been represented at various meetings - particularly at the third session of the Panel of Experts in April 1972 - have shown a definite interest in the project to establish an International University, although expressing the desire that it should be amended or added to here and there.
14. To sum up, the results of the survey conducted in the first half of 1972 show that the project for establishing an International University arouses positive interest on the whole in many different university and intellectual circles throughout the world. However, this interest is by no means general as yet and the problem does not seem, at present, to figure among the most urgent concerns of university people and research workers. Like any new institution, the proposed University would first have to prove the need for its existence through its work; its reputation would thus be commensurate with the extent of its activities.

III

CONCLUSIONS

15. In the light of the foregoing information, the General Conference is called upon to rule on the proposals contained in decision 4.2.1 which the Executive Board took at its 29th session. To this end, the Conference will no doubt wish to adopt a resolution containing a recommendation to the United Nations General Assembly as well as instructions to the Executive Board and the Director-General on further action to be taken, in particular when the General Assembly has made its final position clear in this respect.

ANNEX I

II. DECISION 4.1.3 ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION ON 18 OCTOBER 1971 (88 EX/Decisions)

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling resolution 1.242 adopted by the General Conference at its sixteenth session and 87 EX/Decision, 4.2.3,
2. Having examined the "Report and Comments of the Director-General on the Results of the Feasibility Study Concerning the International University" (38 EX/6) and the document entitled "A study on the feasibility of an International University" (ED/WS/257),
3. Expresses appreciation to the Director-General for the documents so fully elaborated on a subject of such complexity within the time available;
4. Considering the documents a valuable contribution to the discussion on the possibility of establishing an International University,
5. Commends the proposal to establish an International University under the auspices of the United Nations which will deal with the urgent problems of our time and questions of global importance, and which should have as a first task the programming and co-ordination of research and studies related to these problems;
6. Calls attention however to the need for further examination of a number of problems affecting the project, such as:
 - (a) guarantee of academic freedom of the International University;
 - (b) the function, status and choice of students, teachers, scholars and university administrators;
 - (c) the definition of the respective tasks of the institution contemplated and of Unesco in the fields of research and reflection;
 - (d) methods of co-ordination and co-operation with affiliated institutions;
 - (e) further consultation with the academic community, and with youth in particular;
 - (f) sources of finance to guarantee autonomy;
7. Reaffirms that Unesco has primary competence and responsibility in the development of this project;
8. Decides to transmit to the United Nations General Assembly this resolution with the report 38 EX/6 and the study ED/WS/257;
9. Invites the Director-General, in the light of discussion at the XXVIII session of the General Assembly and of any decision then taken, to make proposals for further development of the project to the 89th session of the Executive Board.

ANNEX II

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/3596)]

2822 (XXVI). Question of the establishment of an International University

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2691 (XXV) of 11 December 1970,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1653 (LI) of 23 November 1971,

Emphasizing the importance of adequate consideration by appropriate intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system of all factors relating to the question of the establishment of an International University,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the Report of the Secretary-General, containing the Report and Comments of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the Results of the Feasibility Study Concerning the International University, the decision adopted by the Executive Board of that Organization on 13 October 1971, the recommendations of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Report of the Panel of Experts on the Establishment of an International University;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his studies, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other interested bodies, taking into account the views expressed in the General Assembly at its XXVIth session, and to submit any additional information to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session;

3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to call on the assistance of the Panel of Experts on the establishment of an International University, set up in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2691 (XXV), the membership of which should be increased to not more than twenty to allow for the nomination of five additional experts by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with the Secretary-General and interested agencies and programmes;

4. Invites the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session such further observations and recommendations on the subject as it may consider appropriate;

5. Requests the Economic and Social Council to give detailed consideration, in conformity with its resolution 1653 (LI), to reports and recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General, the further report of the Secretary-General and the views of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to submit to the General Assembly at its XXVIIth session a report, together with any recommendations it may make on the question of the establishment of an International University;

6. Requests the Economic and Social Council to take into account also the views expressed in the General Assembly at its XXVIIth session;

7. Invites the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its seventeenth session to submit to the General Assembly at its XXVIIIth session such comments and observations on the subject as it may consider appropriate;

8. Decides to consider the matter fully at its XXVIIIth session.

2021st plenary meeting,
16 December 1971.

ANNEX III

REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

(Unesco House, Paris, 5-8 April 1972)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Panel of Experts, as originally constituted in virtue of General Assembly resolution 2691 (XXV) met twice in 1971 and issued an interim report, as well as a definitive report which was submitted to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in November as Annex IV to document A/8510. At the same time, the Council and the Assembly had before them the Report, and Comments of the Director-General of Unesco (88 EX/6) on the Results of the Feasibility Study Concerning the International University as well as the decision in regard to that study adopted by the Executive Board of Unesco on 18 October 1971. These texts appear as Annexes I and II of the above document, which also includes an Annex III, recommendations concerning the organization and financing of an International University put forward by UNITAR. The present report supplements the reports referred to above.

2. By resolution 2822 (XXVI) the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his studies in consultation with Unesco and other interested bodies and to submit any additional information to the Council at its fifty-third session; it further authorized him to call on the assistance of the Panel, the membership of which was increased to twenty to allow for the nomination of five additional experts by the Director-General of Unesco, in consultation with the Secretary-General and interested agencies and programmes. In its expanded form and with the membership shown in Annex I, the Panel met at Unesco House, Paris, from 5 to 8 April 1972. The meeting was addressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of Unesco. The Executive Director of UNITAR and senior officials of Unesco and the United Nations attended throughout, as did representatives of ILO and WHO. Representatives of the United Nations Headquarters "Youth Caucus" and of the International Student Movement for the United Nations also participated as observers.

THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

3. Having carefully re-examined the proposals outlined in its own previous reports and in Unesco's feasibility study as well as in the reports prepared by UNITAR, the Panel reaffirms its unanimous conviction that the establishment of a United Nations University⁽¹⁾ would be highly desirable. Such a university should indeed prove to be of great importance and value to the world community. The Panel is of the opinion that the studies and research already undertaken have identified certain functions which require the creation of a decentralized and fully international university system, the cohesion of which would be ensured by a co-ordinating centre linked to the United Nations system. These functions are determined, on the one hand, by the existence of great and pressing problems of human survival and human welfare that are before the United Nations and its agencies, the solution of which requires sustained effort and attention as well as the assistance of eminent specialists of various disciplines from the most varied regions - and on the other, by the fact that all countries, particularly the developing ones, have an urgent need to train highly-qualified specialists and to enable their scientists and young research workers to break away from their professional isolation and to improve their knowledge under conditions which preclude "brain drain" and intellectual waste.

(1) In conformity with paragraph 7 of its last report, the Panel considers that the term "United Nations University" is the appropriate designation for a system or network of research and training institutes to be established under United Nations auspices even though the creation of a traditional type of university is not envisaged. For this reason, the name "United Nations University" is used in this report. The Founding Committee (see paragraph 27) may, however, wish to re-examine the question of designation when it drafts the Charter for the proposed institution.

4. Consequently, the Panel considers that there are at least two main groups of functions which make the creation of an International University highly desirable:
 - (a) the function of promoting and undertaking research work and the training of highly-qualified researchers who will be concerned with problems which demand the co-operation of specialists in several disciplines, a training and research work of a continued nature which would contribute to improving or ensuring the conditions of existence of mankind. This concerns problems such as those of coexistence between differing cultures, tongues and social systems, of peaceful relations between countries and the preservation of peace and security, of economic and social change and development (particularly the problem of development in non-industrialized countries and regions), of environment and proper use of resources, and of the application of the results of science and technology in the interests of development. It is clear that these problems should be considered by the University primarily in respect of their practical aspect and elements most closely linked, at any given time, to the questions to which the international community must find answers: the University would thus be characterized by the global and transdisciplinary nature of its approach;
 - (b) to assure the contact of scientists from countries at different stages of development, to permit all concerned to study the existing problems of certain disciplines and to generally enrich their knowledge. The University should certainly concern itself in this direction as well, profiting from the experience and success of the International Centre of Theoretical Physics of Trieste in the field of pure science.
5. In addition to these two primary functions, which are complementary, the University would stimulate the efforts of the universities and other institutions of higher learning of the entire world towards the realization of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It would gradually constitute a line of contact between scientists and universities of the world, it would allow for a better co-ordination of research within the United Nations system itself; it would constitute a place of experiment and a model for innovative methods and more open and flexible structures for higher education and for the training of researchers; it would gradually become a world-wide source of documentation and information on international problems.
6. The Panel considers that, in all these areas, and in particular those described under points (a) and (b) of paragraph 4 above, a decentralized University, but one composed of co-ordinated units created under the auspices of the United Nations, would fill a serious gap.

ORGANIZATION

7. While the proposed United Nations University offers great possibilities of expansion, it must inevitably begin modestly, developing a network of research and training centres, existing and to be established. It could originally comprise the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and probably several other existing institutes and centres of the United Nations system. A structure should gradually emerge which will be sufficiently flexible and dynamic in terms not only of confronting the present but also of anticipating and adapting itself to the future.
8. The core of the network of institutions forming the University, directly under the Rector of the University, would be its Centre for Programming and Co-ordination. The network itself would comprise, in addition to existing bodies, others that would be developed, in accordance with needs and as funds become available, taking into account academic and geographical criteria and the necessity for mutual coherence. The research centres would be linked among themselves and to the Programming Centre in such a way as to permit effective co-ordination and interaction, as well as to foster initiative, creativity and innovation.
9. The functions of the Programming and Co-ordinating Centre would include:
 - (a) co-ordination among the component units of the United Nations University system;
 - (b) the programming of subjects of research and areas of training for the system;
 - (c) maintaining contact with eminent academic personalities for advice and guidance on programmes;

- (d) organizing lectures, seminars and discussions and promotion of exchanges of personnel on the above subjects;
 - (e) dissemination of information among the affiliated institutions including information regarding expertise available in various parts of the world on these subjects;
 - (f) assisting the Rector, servicing the governing body and reporting to the legislative organs;
 - (g) assisting in the raising of funds for the units in the network;
 - (h) performing such other functions the governing organ may determine.
10. The University should assume and maintain the character of an academic and scientific institution, integrated in the world academic community, and not that of an intergovernmental organization. It would not engage in undergraduate study but would concentrate on research and training at the post-graduate level.
11. Without prejudging the detailed structure that the governing organs of the United Nations University will assume, the Panel considers that the University's links with the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies most closely concerned, particularly Unesco, must find expression in the composition of the governing organs. At the same time, it feels strongly that these organs should be composed of personalities whose intellectual and moral stature are such as to give the University the leadership and dynamism indispensable for its future development. The organs should include representatives of the young scholars and members of the University. Due regard should also be paid in the composition of the governing organs to the world-wide character of the University which must help meet the needs, and require the active collaboration and fair representation, of the various geographical and cultural regions.
12. As brought out so clearly in the previous studies and in its own reports, the Panel reaffirms that the University would differ substantially from the United Nations and its agencies in that it would not be an intergovernmental organization, but an academic institution responding to its own governing organ made up of representatives of the academic world and of participants in the University. While participants in the University would normally do research and publish the results in their own name, staff members of intergovernmental organizations generally act in the name of the organization and not in their individual academic capacity. Finally, although research and training activities are encouraged by some intergovernmental organizations, most do not have these functions as their primary responsibility. The University, on the other hand, will not be subject to the political constraints of intergovernmental organizations, but will carry out its research and training functions within the general guidelines established by its governing organ. Accordingly, the Panel feels that the University would not duplicate, but rather would complement the work of the United Nations and its various agencies and render a major service to the United Nations family by adding a new dimension of global research to its activity.
13. The Panel recognizes that the units undertaking research and training in the United Nations system fulfil many of the criteria of academic institutions, even if the scope of activity of some of them has been limited to specific areas. In this context, the Panel considers that UNITAR should become a research and training centre at the core of the University and thus continue its specialized activity as an integral part of the University. The existing units may retain their separate statutes, budgets, staffs and programmes and continue to report to their respective governing bodies. Obligations incurred through affiliation with the University both by the University to the unit and the unit to the University, would be the subject of negotiation between the respective governing bodies.
14. The Panel considers it important to underline and maintain at all times the academic character of the work of members of the University, who should not be considered as international civil servants. Their legal status would, however, be assimilated to that of international experts, under the relevant international conventions. In principle and in most cases, the employment of scientific participants will be of limited tenure so as to avoid some of the dangers of "brain drain" and in order not to estrange them from their countries and civilizations. The rules governing their association with the University will have to depend on the stage attained by them in the development of their academic careers, and would have to be fixed in the University Charter. The Panel, however, feels that all efforts should be made to ensure a reasonable degree of mobility of its participants and to obtain a coherent and integrated academic community.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

15. Assuming that the system will be created on a decentralized model with a Programming and Co-ordinating Centre and various units for advanced research and training - both existing and to be created - and assuming that this network will be developed stage by stage, the capital cost of the Centre, excluding the cost of the land, has been estimated at approximately \$900,000 and the recurrent cost as approximately \$500,000.⁽¹⁾ The cost of a research and training unit would depend on its scope as well as on the subject to be dealt with; it can be approximatively stated that the cost of an average unit would be of about the same magnitude as the cost of the Centre itself.
16. The Panel feels that it is not realistic to expect that the project could be even partly financed in the near future from the Regular Budget of the United Nations or of any of the Specialized Agencies. However, some assistance by the United Nations and/or by its agencies would be desirable in order to mark the international character of the University. Little doubt can be entertained that the bulk of the budget of the University system would have to come from voluntary contributions. Possible sources of such voluntary financing are:
- (a) governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of Specialized Agencies;
 - (b) intergovernmental organizations, including the Specialized Agencies and programmes;
 - (c) non-governmental organizations, including foundations and universities, and individuals.
17. As far as capital costs, or the costs of the land and building are concerned, it is to be assumed that the host government or governments will absorb this cost or supply the facilities. This does not, however, preclude the possibility that, in the case of research and training units to be established in developing countries, governments who are not hosts of the unit as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, may be willing to contribute towards the cost of some of the physical facilities.
18. The Panel considers it of great importance to secure a stable financial basis for annual recurring costs of the different research and training units of the University. In this regard, the desirability of having an endowment fund has been mentioned. The principle of financing will have to be different as between the developed countries and the developing countries. In the former, the host countries can be expected to absorb a minimum of 50 per cent of the recurring costs. In the case of developing countries, the share of the host countries might be substantially reduced, the balance to be absorbed by the developed countries, the United Nations system and non-governmental contributions. A special trust fund may be established by the University for receiving these contributions; the possibility of an at least partial financing of some of the local units through the Programming and Co-ordinating Centre may have to be envisaged.
19. A significant portion of the outlays should be envisaged for the purpose of financing ad hoc activities and exchanges among scholars from as many countries as possible in order to promote research of major world-wide concern. Some governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations would wish to contribute towards certain specific projects of research or training which concern them particularly within the framework of the programme guidelines determined by the governing organ of the United Nations University system. The governing organ should, however, ensure that free academic research and training will not be impaired by sources of finance. It is hoped also that IBRD and UNDP funds may be available to support certain research and training activities of the University.
20. Aside from the Programming and Co-ordinating Centre and the component units of the University system as such, there is the question of financing some of the activities of affiliated units (universities, research institutes or parts thereof). While affiliated institutes are expected to preserve their essential administrative and financial autonomy, they would wish to establish, by mutual agreement, co-operation with the University system on specific subject matters. Some financing from the University system may be required for such specific functional co-operation.

(1) These figures are only estimates and are based on the methods of budgetary provision as exposed in the Unesco feasibility study (EPU/US/257) of 1 September 1971, pages 61 to 82 of the English version.

21. The Panel has been given a preliminary indication of the response of governments to appeals for financial support for the United Nations University. It has noted that several governments have offered to host some units of the proposed University system in their respective countries or have offered some facilities. These efforts include readiness to absorb the full capital cost and in certain instances a substantial portion of the recurring cost as well. The Panel realizes, however, that until the General Assembly authorizes the creation of the University, it is difficult to follow up on these offers or otherwise to organize a systematic fund-raising campaign and stimulate interest in the non-governmental sectors. The Panel is confident that more funds will be forthcoming as the initial units come into being and show their value to the international community in general and to the academic community in particular. The solution of the financial aspect of the University system will therefore depend significantly on the quality of its leadership, the relevance of its programme and the performance and accomplishments of its academic and other personnel.

22. On the basis of some tentative soundings, sufficient potential interest in the establishment of the United Nations University system has manifested itself among a number of governments, non-governmental organizations, foundations, universities and individuals to enable early launching of the Programming and Co-ordinating Centre and the inclusion within the University of some existing institutes of the United Nations system. The creation of several new research and training centres, as well as the affiliation of some national university centres and institutes, should be possible within a not distant future.

THE GUARANTEE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

23. The Panel examined the operational methods and principles of the University and in particular the independence and academic freedom of its members. The Panel is unanimous in considering that the University should be devoted exclusively to the study of problems that figure in its programme and to the training of research workers. Consequently, it should not be subjected to any political pressure or any other influence which would entail a deviation from scientific research undertaken in an objective spirit.

24. The Panel has strongly emphasized the fact that the academic freedom of the University's members - in particular their right to choose freely their fields of research and to communicate as freely the unabridged results of their work - is the basic condition for the success of the undertaking.

25. The Panel is aware of the fact that academic freedom also entails responsibility: in the case of the University, the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter will obviously determine the fields of research to be undertaken as well as the general spirit in which research is conducted. However within these broad limits, it will be necessary to guarantee complete academic freedom. The Panel considers that these guarantees will be reflected in the provisions relating to the structure of the University and its links with the United Nations; on the other hand, it seems clear that this freedom will be respected and all the more complete if the prestige and moral authority of the University become evident.

26. On the whole, academic freedom within the United Nations University will largely depend on the wisdom and care with which the work of the University and of each of its units is conducted and also on the determination of each of the University's individual members to preserve such freedom. In the case of the United Nations University, the combined effect of judicious regulations in the Charter, of the high moral and intellectual prestige of the institution itself, as well as of the concern of its members to preserve their liberty of thought and expression, will constitute in the mind of the Panel sufficient guarantees for academic freedom.

STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

27. Should the General Assembly of the United Nations decide that it is both desirable and feasible to establish the United Nations University system, it may wish to authorize the Secretary-General and the Director-General of Unesco, in co-operation with UNITAR and other United Nations agencies and programmes concerned, to establish a Founding (preparatory) Committee. This Committee might be composed of a small number of experts drawn from the academic world, including outstanding young scholars, designated by the Secretary-General and the Director-General in consultation with other agencies concerned. Representatives of the United Nations agencies of major interest in the Committee's work, including FAO, ILO and WHO, should be invited to participate fully and

regularly. The Committee will have the specific charge of preparing a draft Charter of the system which should be submitted for approval to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of Unesco. It is desirable that, following the rules contained in the Charter, the Rector and the governing organ should be appointed as soon as possible. Their immediate tasks would include negotiation of necessary arrangements for the participation of existing United Nations institutes, the establishment of the initial programme and consultations with potential sources of support.

28. Concurrently, the General Assembly may wish to invite the Secretary-General and the Director-General of Unesco to use every endeavour to encourage contributions from governments, inter-governmental, non-governmental and other entities.